

REMARKS

Fig 1A has been modified. Claims 1, 2, 3, 13 and 15 have been amended.

Claims 2, 3 and 15 have been amended to correct some typographical mistakes

The Examiner objected to the specification in that numeral 14d shown in Fig.1A of the drawings is not described in the specification. Fig.1A has been modified with reference numeral 14d deleted to overcome the objection.

The Examiner objected to claim 13 for not including a parent claim. This objection has been overcome by adding claim 1 to the amended claim 13.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7-8, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Asakawa et al. (US Pat 6,609,806). Asakawa disclosed a backlight system in which a light source is first converted into a unidirectional light beam by means of a reflector 13 and then to spread (or guide) the light in a transparent substrate 2 to serve as a light rod. In the present invention, the light is spread by fanning out or by diversion of the light without using Asakawa's reflector 13. Thus, Asakawa requires three reflections (12→13→19→LCD) before the light reaches the LCD. On the other hand, the present invention requires only two reflection (1st reflection surface→2nd reflection surface→LCD). Therefore, Asakawa teaches away from the present invention. By limiting the light source in claim 1 to be a fan-out, divergent light source (i.e. without conversion into a unidirectional light beam), it is believed that claim 1 is no longer anticipated by Asakawa. Since the claims 2-3, 7-8, 12 and 14 are dependent on claim 1, it follows that these dependent claims are also no longer anticipated by Asakawa.

The Examiner rejected claims 4-6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asawkawa in view of Wortman et al. (US Pat 5,771,328). These claims are dependent on claim 1. Since claim 1 has been amended to be no longer anticipated by Asakawa, it follows that these dependent claims 4-6 and 13 are also no longer unpatentable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1 and 13, as amended, and the dependent claims 2-12 and 14-15 are in condition for allowance. Reexamination of the objections and rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-15 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted.

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